

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 17-20 are pending in this application. Please cancel claims 1-16 without prejudice or disclaimer as follows:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A packet switching apparatus connected to a plurality of networks, each network using a specific communication protocol for transmitting packets across it, the packet switching apparatus for forwarding packets received to their destination, based on a session as a point-to-point connection set up between a terminal and a destination network, and the packet switching apparatus comprising:

a pathfinding table for containing entries on a plurality of entry lines, to which, route information to be known when a first packet of a session is received and associated output information including the identifier of an output port through which to send out the packet received, the identifier of an output tunnel including one session or a bundle of a plurality of sessions through which packets are logically passed to a point in a network, and the identifier of an output session are defined; and

a processing unit for packets received which searches said pathfinding table for an entry line matching with the route information included in a packet received, performs processing for the received packet, according to packet output route information specified on the searched out entry line, and sends out the received packet through the output port identified by the output port identifier on said specific entry line, and wherein:

even when the terminal moves, leaving the area of a network and entering the area of another network among said plurality of networks, said packet switching apparatus continues to forward packets it received through the existing point-to-point session handed over to the network where the terminal now stays only by changing the output tunnel including one session or a bundle of a plurality of sessions through which packets are logically passed to a point in a network,

wherein each of the entries of the pathfinding table contains a correspondence among an identifier of an input tunnel of an input packet, an

identifier of an input session of the input packet, and an identifier of an output port of the input packet.

18. (Previously Presented) The packet switching apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said apparatus handles packets to be transmitted through said session or sessions based on a Point to Point Protocol (PPP).
19. (Previously Presented) The packet switching apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said apparatus handles packets to be transported through output tunneling based on a Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol (L2TP).
20. (Previously Presented) The packet switching apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said apparatus handles packets to be transported through output tunneling based on a Mobile IP.